

Faculty Senate President's Message

September 30, 2011

USU Colleagues:

I understand the frustration that many of you are feeling over delays in definitive information on the parking situation at USU. From my observations, Dr. Rice and his advisory group have spent extraordinary time and energy to come up with a workable plan under constantly evolving circumstances. However, the paucity of information (and its consistency) reaching the grass roots level is of concern and has caused a great deal of angst among faculty and staff. Parking, as well as some other important issues, such as compensation, will be addressed by President Rice at the upcoming Fall Faculty Assembly on Thursday, 6 October. The Assembly will begin at 1500 in Lecture Hall E. Please try to attend.

Here's my understanding of the parking situation to date:

- Decentralized distribution of hang tags, after some consideration of taking it off the table, did occur in the end, with guidance on criteria for allocation left to heads of responsibility centers (AFRRI, GSN, SOM, SVP, VFA, VPR)
- Decisions for hang tag distribution made by responsibility centers/departments, with apparent variability in criteria for allocation and how they are applied
- Union negotiations have not been completely resolved
- Effect on students and support personnel not yet determined
- Many individuals have stepped up to form carpools (around 200), particularly students, and lists required verification
- Contractors eligible for carpools
- Contract(s) for potential alternatives to parking at USU, such as satellite lots, pending (final details/evaluation of actual need)
- Both NSAB and USU personnel are monitoring use of surface parking and multi-level parking garage, and utilization will be on the agenda at a meeting end of October
- Enforcement of hang tag use by USU security
 - Not before 17 October
 - Security checks after 9 a.m.
 - Carpool parking spaces available for open parking after 9 a.m.
 - Unrestricted parking after 3 p.m.
- The above subject to change

The Faculty Senate Comparability and Faculty Welfare Committee will be gathering information to monitor the parking situation and to make recommendations to ensure that future decisions are data-driven and include an appeals process. Adjustments are expected to be made wherever possible to allow faculty to carry out their mission without performance degradation or undue hardship.

I encourage you to consider feasible alternatives to driving to work (such as alternate work schedules, telecommuting, public transportation, or tag sharing), which may free up a tag for a colleague or critical support personnel. Unfortunately, the time available to make alternate

arrangements is very short. Depending on final policy decisions on hang tag enforcement, you may experience varying levels of inconvenience or even hardship. You are welcome to contact myself, the Chair of Comparability and Faculty Welfare Committee, or any other member of the Faculty Senate to express your concerns (Senate liaisons to responsibility centers/departments posted).